This prevalence of accident cannot, as some may be tempted to imagine, be accidental. It is in the very constitution of things. It is one of the most marked characteristics of the state of the world in which our lot is cast. It is, in fact, the grand means which the Governor of the world employs for the accomplishment of his specific purposes, and by which his providence is rendered a particular providence, reaching to the most minute incidents, and embracing all events and every event. It is the especial instrument employed by him to keep man dependent, and make him feel his dependence. A living writer of great genius has described the fact of which we are seeking to give an explanation. " But there is a higher government of men," says Isaac Taylor, " as moral and religious beings, which is carried on chiefly by means of the fortuities of life. Those unforeseen accidents which so often control the lot of men, constitute a superstratum in the system of human affairs, wherein peculiarly the Divine providence holds empire for the accomplishment of its special purposes. It is from this hidden and inexhaustible mine of chances, as wo must call them, that the Governor of the world draws, with unfathomable skill, the materials of his dispensations towards each individual of mankind/7*

If, in contemplating the general order that pervades the world, we seemed to fall in with beautiful figures rectilinear and circular, we feel now, in dealing with these fortuities, that we are ascending to curves of a higher order, and figures of greater complexity; or rather as if we had got an infinitesimal calculus, in which every one thing is infinitely small, but in which the infinite units produce magnitudes and forces infinitely great. The curves are sometimes difficult of quadrature, and the differentials not easy to be integrated; but still they form an instrument unequalled at once for its potency and its pliability, its wide extended range, and the certainty with which it hits the point at

which it aims.

ILLUSTRATIVE NOTE (D.)—PHENOMENA CLASSIFIED ACCORDING AS THEY ARE MORE OE LESS COMPLICATED.—REVIEW OF M. COMTE.

The complexity of nature is one of the most wonderful of its characteristics, though it is often overlooked in the present day by persons who are endeavouring to discover the universality of law.

It is, if we do not mistake, this complication of the causes and laws of nature, taken always in connexion with the cognitive and limited nature of man's faeul-

* Nat. Hist., of Enthusiasm.